

Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

UNITED STATES & DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded \$1,405,749, including \$136,307 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in the Dominican Republic.



In addition to the United States' long-standing support for the IAEA's activities to promote peaceful nuclear applications, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the United States announced a \$100 million USD effort to expand this support over the next five years. The United States has pledged \$50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development.

The United States views its support for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to which all NPT Parties are entitled, as a critical part of its broader effort to strengthen the IAEA and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. The U.S. has already designated over \$22 million for IAEA projects benefitting over 120 countries, including the Dominican Republic, for which funding was previously unavailable. The United States is working with partners to reach the \$100 million goal, and welcomes Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan who have announced their own commitments to the PUI of over \$12 million.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

For various reasons, many of the IAEA's Member States have expressed an interest in nuclear power to meet their energy needs. The Dominican

Republic is therefore participating in a regional TC project supported by the United States to strengthen national and regional infrastructures for the planning and development of nuclear power programs. The project will help ensure that participating Member States have a complete understanding of the range of issues and activities that must be addressed before implementing a nuclear power program, and also ensure that there is a mechanism by which joint studies and issues can be addressed efficiently.

AGRICULTURE

Food systems in developing countries are not always as developed as in the industrialized world, and when the quality and safety of food supplies suffers, the people in those countries are therefore exposed to a wide range of potential food quality and safety risks. Additionally, for most developing countries, agriculture lies at the center of their economies and food exports are a major source of foreign exchange and income generation, but access to food export markets depends on their capacity to meet the regulatory requirements of importing countries. The Dominican Republic is therefore participating in a regional TC project supported by the United States to ensure food safety, promote good agricultural and production practices, and enhance food exports by using nuclear techniques to monitor chemical residues and contaminants in food products.

The Dominican Republic is also participating in a project, coordinated by the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications and supported by the United States, to implement capacity building activities to improve food safety and quality through nuclear technology and networking. The project involves workshops, human resource training,

1. *Power plant under construction. Credit: Kansai Electric Power Co.*
2. *Scientists are constantly looking at ways to improve crops using nuclear techniques. Credit: Centro Energia Nuclear Agricultura, CENA/USP*
3. *Nuclear analytical techniques can evaluate how well food, fortified with essential nutrients and minerals, sustains the body's health and growth. Credit: IAEA*

and technology transfers, and aims to establish functional networks, raise awareness of food safety and conduct food safety gap analysis in selected countries.

HUMAN HEALTH

Early and accurate diagnosis is vital for effective treatment of both heart disease and cancer. The diagnostic and therapeutic applications of nuclear medicine techniques play a pivotal role in the management of these patients, improving the quality of life by means of an early diagnosis allowing opportune and proper therapy.

With cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of death in most Latin American countries and almost 800,000 new cases of cancer in the region each year, the Dominican Republic is currently working through a regional TC project supported by the United States to improve the management of cardiac diseases and cancer patients by strengthening nuclear medicine techniques in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Dominican Republic is currently participating in a regional TC project supported by the United States to improve the operational national regulatory infrastructure for safety and control of radiation sources to ensure the protection of people and the environment against the adverse effects of ionizing radiation. The project will harmonize and streamline participating countries' national capabilities for regulatory control in compliance with international requirements and establish or develop a comprehensive national

system for preparedness and response to radiological emergencies.

Human resource development is critical for Member States to be able to implement and sustain nuclear security, so the Dominican Republic is also participating in a regional TC project supported by the United States to implement the component of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013 which focuses on institutional capacity building, human resource development and educational programs. Strengthening nuclear security human resource development will contribute to sustained effective nuclear security worldwide.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To contribute to Member States' manpower development, the IAEA awards individual fellowships and organizes group training courses. Every year, numerous fellows and training course participants travel to the United States for training in various peaceful uses of nuclear technology and return to their home country to apply the lessons learned.

Since 2000, the United States has hosted several training courses that included Dominican participants in the fields of insect pest control, nuclear security, nuclear power infrastructure programs, nuclear information processing and quality assurance in radiotherapy.

Additionally, since 2000, four U.S. experts have traveled to the Dominican Republic to collaborate through an IAEA Technical Cooperation projects. Topics included design and human resources.



1. IAEA helps countries safety condition and seal spent radioactive sources. Credit: Kirstie Hansen/IAEA
2. Radiotherapy center. Credit: Rodolfo Quevenco/IAEA
3. IAEA fellows receive training in plant breeding. Credit: Dean Calma/IAEA

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